

# Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

2:00 p.m.

- **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Rebecca Johnson officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Wendy Bohlke, Steve Adelstein, John Pedlow, and Teresa Taylor, constituting a quorum. Others present included President Hiyane-Brown; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services; Ed Harri, Vice President for Instruction; Luca Lewis, Vice President for Student Services; Eva Schulte, Executive Director for Institutional Advancement; Terri Thayer, Interim College Equity Officer; Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Special Assistant to the President.

## ACTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

- Chair Johnson shared that the Board received a letter from Members of the Whatcom White Womxn for Racial Justice Employee Resource Group on evening of October 13, 2020 asking if the board would consider moving public comment from after the executive session to an earlier time in the meeting. Chair Johnson already had a conversation with Kerena Higgins, AAG, about changing the public comment time prior to receiving this letter.

Chair Johnson stated that given the challenges of meeting virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board will review the timing and rules for the public comment process and post the information in advance of the next meeting. She then proposed that the agenda be amended to reflect a public comment period to take place before the executive session.

Chair Johnson also provided a clarification relating to the Board Resolution approved in June relating to anti-racism, and the way it was portrayed in the Whatcom White Womxn for Racial Justice Employee Resource Group's letter to the Board. Chair Johnson stated that the Board Resolution she drafted and presented for board adoption in June, and was subsequently amended in response to Trustee Taylor's request to include a specific reference to Indigenous peoples, was a resolution developed in response to the national events related to the murder of George Floyd and the reprehensible discrimination against Asian Americans and racist comments about the origins of the coronavirus. The board resolution was not in response to faculty, staff or student feedback, though the Board appreciated them sharing their concerns at the June meeting.

The board resolution was one of many that were proposed and adopted by community and technical colleges throughout the CTC system; and Chair Johnson said she was proud that Whatcom's was one of the first few that were shared among the colleges.

- Trustee Adelstein moved to accept the agenda with one change to move public comment prior to executive session. It was seconded by Trustee Taylor and the **motion was approved.**
- Chair Johnson announced that there is a designated time for public comment on the agenda.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### ➤ **Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of the September 23, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.
- b. Chair Johnson stated: "If there are no objections, this will be adopted." As there were no objections, **this item was adopted.**

## **ACTION ITEM**

### ➤ **Proposed 2020-21 WCC Operating Budget – Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services (Second reading, possible action)**

Langstraat shared a PowerPoint presentation with the proposed 2020-21 WCC Operating Budget and highlighted key items as outlined in the memorandum to the board (included in the [meeting packet](#)). Trustee Adelstein expressed his appreciation for the hard work of all who were involved with the development of the budget. Trustee Taylor and other board members echoed Trustee Adelstein's appreciation.

Trustee Bohlke moved to approve the 2020-21 WCC Operating Budget as proposed. It was seconded by Trustee Adelstein and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Chair Johnson called for public comment.
- Anna Wolff thanked the Board for acknowledging the letter from Whatcom White Womxn for Racial Justice Employee Resource Group and being so responsive. She said that the request to have public comment earlier in the meeting would be more inviting for the public to address the board during public comment period.

## **BREAK**

- The meeting was adjourned for a five-minute break at 2:22 p.m.
- The meeting reconvened into open session at 2:27 p.m.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- At 2:27 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed Executive Session of the Board for approximately forty-five minutes to review the performance of a public employee..., and as provided in RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a), to discuss collective bargaining...and ...to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to Litigation or legal risks of a proposed action or current practice that the agency has identified when public discussion of the litigation.

Chair Johnson announced that action was anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Vice President Nate Langstraat, Vice President Ed Harri and Assistant Attorney General Kerena Higgins.

At 3:10 p.m. the Executive Session was extended for another thirty minutes.

The Executive Session adjourned at 3:40 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 3:40 p.m.

## **ACTION ITEM**

- Trustee Bohlke moved to approve amendment of the president's contract to extend the contract for an additional three years beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024. The amendment included COLA increases as authorized for state employees by the State Legislature, salary adjustment, deferred compensation, and professional assignment time. It was seconded by Trustee Pedlow and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Trustee Adelstein said he is pleased with the direction of WCC and credits much of the success of the College to President Kathi's leadership and the team she has assembled. Trustee Pedlow noted that the retention of President Kathi's is critical in ensuring that the College will continue its upward trajectory. Chair Johnson stated that the Board has full confidence in President Kathi and excited to have her continued leadership; other board members agreed.

## ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.



11/18/2020

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Chair of the Board

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Date



11/18/2020

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President and Secretary of the Board

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Date